Demand of Loan from World Bank for Orissa Cyclone

2316. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Orissa has requested for loan from the World Bank to the tune of Rs. 7.5 thousand crores of Rupees to meet the recent calamities;

(b) whether Government of India is processing the same; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Government of Orissa has prepared a preliminary brief outline of a reconstruction programme for the cyclone affected areas envisaging a requirement of Rs. 6,700 crore, to be implemented with assistance from the World Bank.

(b) and (c) On the request of the Government of India a World Bank mission has visited the State between 29th November and 4th December, 1999. The Bank will send another mission some time in January, 2000 for firming up of sector-wise assistance.

Farmers' Welfare Fund in Himachal Pradesh

2317. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government for the constitution of a Farmers' Welfare Fund in the State for providing compensation to farmers in case of crop failure due to excess-rain hailstorm or no-rain in time etc. in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.